

HENDRICK HUDSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Pupil Personnel Services

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LYNN M. RAFALIK
Executive Director of PPS

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June 15, 2016

Dear Members of the Hendrick Hudson Community:

The shooting incident in Orlando, Florida this past weekend was horrific and disturbing. When children hear of such trauma by watching television, or overhear others discussing it, they can feel scared, confused and anxious. As we learn more details of the personal stories of the victims and their families, a range of emotions and grief may be triggered. As we wrote in a previous letter this year, it takes a village to raise our children. We are aware of the vulnerabilities of our Hen Hud students and remain vigilant and watchful for any signs of stress, anxiety or feelings of sadness, especially at this time of the school year.

As always, we encourage you to be watchful of your children and remind them to reach out to us at any time if they feel isolated or discouraged. Our district is fortunate to have support staff to help students in times of need. Our counselors, teachers, and administrators are mindful of the signs student in distress may exhibit and are here to help.

We have provided several links to resources that may help with conversations and provide some guidance after this terrible tragedy.

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/war-and-terrorism/helping-children-cope-with-terrorism>

<https://www.romper.com/p/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-the-orlando-club-shooting-12327>

<http://www.theeap.com/hrwebcafe/response-to-orlando-tragedy-resources-tools/>

<http://www.nasponline.org/search/search-results?keywords=death+and+grief+supporting+children+and+youth>

Please know that we are doing everything possible to ensure the safety and health of our students. We will continue to develop measures to heighten our awareness of, and response to, such potential tragedies. Do not hesitate to contact us at any time with any of your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lynn Rafalik", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Lynn Rafalik
Executive Director of Pupil Personnel Services